

Aeronautical Law Symposumn. By Federal Bar Association of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut

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J. Walter McKenna, *Aeronautical Law Symposumn. By Federal Bar Association of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut*, 23 Marq. L. Rev. 155 (1939).

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BOOK REVIEW

Aeronautical Law Symposium. By Federal Bar Association of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. 1939. Aeronautical Digest Publishing Corp, New York. 32 pp.

This publication is a report of the proceedings of an aeronautical law symposium which was held in New York City last year under the auspices of the Committee on Aeronautical Law of the Federal bar of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

To those interested in the field of air-law this report, with its eleven printed addresses on an equal number of varied subjects in this field, will be welcomed. Eminent authorities of aeronautical law from every section of the United States presented various phases of the subject at this meeting.

Lack of space prevents comment on all of these extremely interesting talks but a mere mention of the various topics discussed will indicate the scope of the matters covered. They were the following: Property Rights in Airspace, The Law of Aerial Bombardment, Some Practical Aspects of the Law Affecting the Aircraft Industry, Governmental Control and Regulation of Aeronautics, Some Phases of Aeronautical Tax Law, Damage Liability of Aircraft To Passengers and Air Express, Damage Liability of Aircraft to Persons and Property on the Surface, The Proposed Uniform Aviation Liability Act, Reminiscences in Aeronautics, Aeronautical Insurance Law, Admiralty Jurisdiction in Air Law.

An especially timely topic was presented by Major Rowland W. Fixel of Detroit who discussed some legal phases of aerial bombardment. Major Fixel traces the history of various world-wide conferences within the last few years which forbid and condemned unrestricted aerial bombardments such as were practiced by Germany during the World War, by Italy in Abyssinia, by Japan in China, and by foreign flyers operating in the Spanish conflict. It is interesting to note Major Fixel's comment on the value of such prohibitions and condemnations in the event of a major conflict. He says, "and it is a foregone conclusion, that should armed conflict ensue between two major powers, indiscriminate bombing by air will be a prominent factor in such hostilities."

A gloomy future is pictured by Major Fixel for the civilized world unless some limitation is imposed and followed in the field of aerial bombardment. "Large cities such as Paris, London, Berlin and New York, are in imminent danger of almost total destruction and devastation by the unloading of incendiary bombs on a large scale, by an air force which may gain aerial superiority," he said.

The Major further contends that until the viewpoint of brutality and force as a guide to international relationship is eliminated, aerial bombardment cannot be limited. Until this viewpoint is obtained he suggests that it is necessary to develop over-powering counter-offensive weapons, to completely boycott offenders, and to arouse world opinion against such acts.

Another interesting address by Professor Carl Zollmann on the topic, "Admiralty Jurisdiction in Air Law," was presented at the meeting. It is printed elsewhere in this issue of *THE MARQUETTE LAW REVIEW*.

J. WALTER MCKENNA.

